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Attorney for the Professional Counselor
Examiners Committee of the New Jersey
State Board of Marriage and Family
Therapy Examiners

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FILED

September 15, 2010
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

Ernie L. Khan

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS
COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD OF
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE	:	
APPLICATION OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
PAUL N. ANYEJI	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE AS A PROFESSIONAL	:	CONSENT ORDER
COUNSELOR IN THE STATE	:	
NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened before the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee (hereinafter "the Committee") of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") upon review of the application of the respondent, Paul N. Anyeji, for licensure as a Professional Counselor. Respondent disclosed in his application that he was working as a counselor in a for-profit setting, Powell Group, in Maplewood, New Jersey under the supervision of William Powell, LMFT, LCSW. Respondent submitted documentation that he performed

4,800 hours of supervised counseling services from March 2005 to August 2008 at the Powell Group. Respondent also noted that previously he was a Certified Social Worker from September 1995 until August 1996 when he permitted his certification to expire.

Respondent appeared before the Committee with his attorney, James Wulach, Esq., on September 16, 2009 and testified that he was currently working at the Powell Group, a for-profit counseling center. He asserted that he was unaware that licensure was required for supervised counseling practice in a for-profit setting. He testified that he began working for the Powell Group in 2003 as part of his supervised internship for his Masters degree at New Jersey City University and continued working as a paid counselor upon graduation in May 2006. Respondent informed the Committee that he had recently been advised that he must be licensed to engage in professional counseling in a for-profit setting and that he had ceased working at the Powell Group in 2008.

Respondent testified that he had worked for the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) for eighteen years but was terminated from his employment on July 7, 2003 based upon allegations that he engaged in domestic violence. Respondent denied engaging in domestic violence but admitted that the allegations were upheld by DYFS.

The Committee requested that respondent provide the Committee with a copy of the documents underlying the DYFS termination. Respondent offered in the alternative to provide an evaluation by a Committee approved mental health therapist. The Committee reviewed the evaluation prepared by Amy Altenhaus, Psy.D., concerning his past history, mental health status and rehabilitation.

Following the September 2009 investigative inquiry, the Committee received information that respondent was continuing to engage in counseling services at the Powell Group. Respondent appeared again before the Committee with his attorney, James Wulach, Esq., on May 6, 2010 to respond to allegations that he had continued to engage in counseling services from September 2009 until the end of March 2010 despite his lack of licensure and his prior testimony before the Committee that his employment at Powell Group had ended. Respondent admitted that he had continued to provide counseling services at the Powell Group from September 19, 2009 through March 2010, though his official employment did not end until April 8, 2010. Respondent testified that he had been treating approximately fifteen clients a week, providing counseling services, parenting education and anger management training. He also admitted that his clients were not provided with the required disclosure statement informing them of his supervision under Mr. Powell. Respondent also acknowledged that he gave his girlfriend his ex-wife's social security number in order for her to obtain insurance payment for dental care.

Having reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Committee that the applicant has engaged in the unlicensed practice of professional counseling, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39(a), as he does not hold any license which would entitle him to provide such services in a for-profit setting in New Jersey and continued to engage in professional counseling after he was advised that licensure was required and represented that he had ceased such practice. He also admitted to

engaging in misrepresentations in connection with health insurance, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

It appearing that the applicant desires to resolve this matter without further proceedings, and the Committee finding this Consent Order to be adequately protective of the public interest, and other good cause appearing;

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 15th DAY OF September, 2010

ORDERED:

1. Respondent's application for licensure to practice professional counseling in the State of New Jersey is denied.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from offering to engage in or engaging in professional and/or associate counseling, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39(a), unless and until he is licensed by the Committee or otherwise licensed or certified in the State of New Jersey to provide mental health counseling or to engage in professional and/or associate counseling practice pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-48. No credit shall be granted toward the active period of suspension prior to an application for reinstatement for any time period during which respondent practices any type of counseling or life coaching and/or engages in any type of employment in a counseling practice or agency in the State of New Jersey or any other jurisdiction or state, whether or not such counseling and/or employment are provided in an exempt setting.

3. None of the supervised hours performed by respondent in any for-profit setting, prior to licensure as an associate counselor, shall count toward the mandatory hours of supervised experience required for licensure as a Professional Counselor.

4. The Committee shall not entertain an application pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-40 for licensure as an associate counselor from the respondent for a minimum period of two (2) years. Prior to such an application, respondent shall submit to the Committee a certified transcript demonstrating that respondent has attended in-person (not a distance learning and/or internet program) and successfully completed a minimum of three (3) graduate semester hours in the following areas: ethics, scope of practice and/or professional orientation. The graduate semester hours shall be pre-approved by the Committee and shall be completed at a regionally accredited, CACREP-approved program.

5. Respondent shall provide the Committee with a statement signed and dated by the respondent listing each job the respondent engaged in from the date of the within Order to the date of re-application. Respondent shall include for each place of employment the name of the business or entity, the address, the name of his employer and supervisor, the telephone number of his employer and supervisor, his dates of employment and a description of his duties.

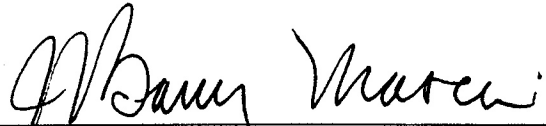
6. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Payment shall be made by certified check or money order, payable to the "State of New Jersey" and sent to Elaine DeMars, Executive Director, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) of the civil penalty shall be stayed unless and until respondent reapplies for licensure and/or violates any of the terms of the within Order. Five hundred dollars (\$500.00) of the civil

penalty shall be paid simultaneously with the signing of the within Order.

7. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 6, defendant may apply to the Committee to pay the civil penalties in installments. In such event, he shall pay \$100.00 contemporaneously with the signing of the within Order, \$100.00 on October 1, 2010, \$100.00 on November 1, 2010, \$100.00 on December 1, 2010 and \$100.00 on January 1, 2011. Each payment shall be made by certified check or money order, payable to the "State of New Jersey" and sent to Elaine DeMars, Executive Director, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

8. Failure to remit any payment as required by this Order will result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt and such other proceedings as are permitted by law.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS
COMMITTEE OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
EXAMINERS



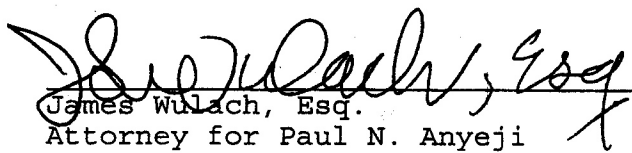
J. Barry Mascari, Ed.D., LPC
President

I have read the above Order and I understand and agree to abide by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee of the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners to enter this Order.



Paul N. Anyeji

Consent as to form and entry:


James Wulach, Esq.
Attorney for Paul N. Anyeji